

THE  
“QUEST  
Of The  
Little Pilgrim.”

≡ BY ≡

Rev. R. W. Norwood.



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## DRAMATIS PERSONAE

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Little Pilgrim  
Mother Church  
Holy Baptism  
Holy Eucharist  
Catechism  
Creed  
Ten Commandments  
Duty to God  
Duty to Man  
The Three Graces  
Liturgy  
Apostolic Confirmation  
Prevening Grace  
Recitations  
Three Promises  
The Angel of Dreams

## PROLOGUE.

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Good people all, within this place,  
Pray, listen to Prevening Grace;  
For God hath ordered I should stand  
First in the homeward moving band,—  
That none may come along this way  
Without the Holy Spirit's sway.  
I come to tell you of the plan  
By which Salvation reaches man,  
And in our Little Pilgrim's quest—  
Who finds the Holy Mother's breast—  
Unfold God's boundless measurements  
Of Grace through Blessed Sacraments.  
Our Pilgrim is the human soul,  
The city its eternal goal,  
And Mother Church the holy Bride  
Of Him Who for her life hath died.  
Baptism, who will lead the child  
From o'er the moorlands bleak and wild,  
Doth represent the mystic birth,—  
Which our dear Master, when on earth,  
Proclaimed with Water and the Word,  
And by the Spirit deeply stirred—  
For all the day-long, night-long strife—  
The springs of everlasting life.  
The Creed is our great heritage  
Which marks the ancient vassalage,  
Whose fetters saints and martyrs broke.  
The Ten Commands Jehovah spoke  
On rocking, clouth-swathed Sinai,  
Midst thunders rolling through the sky,  
To Moses, that great patriot,  
Who for his people freedom sought.  
The two Commandments of the Law

But recapitulate the awe,  
 The fear, the love we owe to God,  
 Whose mercies are exceeding broad,  
 As well the meed we give to Man.  
 And then, good people, please to scan  
 The part that Confirmation plays  
 In Little Pilgrim's after days,—  
 Since by his means she keeps the tryst  
 With gentle, helpful Eucharist.  
 The final scene shews all the band  
 Marching on to Promised Land,  
 And Little Pilgrim's eager eyes  
 Reflect the glow of Paradise.  
 Good people, thus I leave you  
 Our Little Pilgrim tried and true,  
 The while I pray that you may see  
 The meaning of this mystery;  
 For on this way we, too, shall come  
 To our dear God the Father's Home.

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## ACT ONE.

### SCENE I.

On the way to the Holy City, L. P. in pilgrim's habit, bearing cruciform staff, Stands.

L. P. "The way is so long, and day is almost at an end. The shadows make me afraid. I have lost the road to the city of my dreams,—the beautiful city, with its gates of pearls and streets of gold. I thought that I could make the adventure by myself; but I did not know that the hills were so many, or that the journey is so far. Oh, that some one would come to me now. (Kneels down and recites, as in prayer.)

I am just a little tired,  
 For a shadow's on the hills,  
 And within another shadow  
 Heart and spirit darkly fills.

I have dared the upward pathway  
 Till it grew to dark to see,—  
 Am I coward now, O Father,  
 That I crave for company ?

My soul still holds its passion  
 For the everlasting truth,  
 But the loneliness and shadow  
 Come on me with bitter ruth,

Till I cast myself in anguish  
 And despairing on my knees,—  
 Who will hear, and who will answer ?  
 Shadows are such thoughts as these.

I am just a little tired,  
 For the shadows they are deep,  
 And the road among the mountains  
 Yields no place for me to sleep.

Tired,—tired. Oh, reach forward  
 From the awful, silent skies,  
 And flash for just a moment  
 Light upon my tired eyes.

TABLEAU. INVISIBLE CHOIR SING.

Art thou weary, art thou languid,  
 Art thou sore distress" to the end when  
 Holy Baptism enters, bearing a Baptismal shell,  
 and clothed in pure white.

H. B. "Peace be unto you."

L. P. "Peace?—Oh, that I could find it. Along this upward road I have toiled to find the beautiful city of my dreams. I can never know peace until I have come to where there is no night, beyond the walls of Jasper, the city of my God."

H. B. "Little Pilgrim, I am Holy Baptism whose office is to lead you, and all other pilgrims to her who has the keys of the gates of life and death. God has heard your prayer, offered to Him on this mountain side, and I have come direct from Him to bring you to the arms of Mother Church."

L. P. "Who is this Mother Church? How comes she to have such power? If you know the road to the beautiful city, shew me the way, and do you come with me, for I dread the loneliness of the journey."

H. B. "Little Pilgrim, the road that you seek is not easy to find. Our Master has warned us that we may not choose our path. There is but one way, and that is His way. Our Holy Mother continues the work which was begun when the angels sang the message of peace and good will to the shepherds of Bethlehem. It is my high office to lead to Mother Church, for the Lord has said, "Except anyone be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

L. P. "Then I will go with you; but, tell me, why are you called Holy Baptism?"

H. B. "I represent one of the two Sacraments which are always necessary to salvation."

L. P. "But what is a sacrament?"

H. B. "An outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace given unto us, ordained by Christ Himself, as a means whereby we receive the same, and a pledge to assure us thereof."

L. P. "And what is the outward sign of the sacrament which you represent?"

H. B. "Water; wherein the person is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

L. P. "What is the inward and spiritual grace?"

H. B. "A death unto sin, and a new birth unto righteousness; for being by nature born in sin, and the children of wrath, we are hereby made the children of grace."

L. P. "Holy Baptism, lead me to Mother Church."

Exeunt. Curtain.

Choir sings: "The Church's one foundation, etc,

## SCENE II.

The interior of a Church. Mother Church is seated in a large chair. She is clothed in a flowing robe of pure white, on her head is a crown of stars. At her feet Little Pilgrim sits, wearing a baptismal robe. The Pilgrim's staff across her knees. Holy Baptism stands at the right of M. C.

M. C. "What is your name?"

L. P. (answers)

M. C. "Who gave this name?"

L. P. Repeats catechism.

M. C. "My dear child, for this I have received you to my heart. Because you were obedient to Holy Baptism, you are now my daughter. Yet, I cannot take you to the City until you know the Three Promises of your baptism. (Enter Catechism dressed in the habit of a deacon He genuflects to M. C.) "My Son, you will please summon hither the Three Soldiers of the Cross, and tell them to acquaint L. P. with their office." (Exit C., who returns with the Three Promises. They are dressed as Crusaders with shield and sword. On each shield is the letter representing the several promises, R., B., O., respectively.

R., saluting with sword. "Little Pilgrim, I am your first promise."

L. P. "What is that."

R. "Renunciation: for I did promise to renounce the devil and all his works, the pomp and vanities of this wicked world, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh "

B. "Little Pilgrim, I am your second promise."

L. P. "What did you promise?"

R. Repeats catechism.

O Little Pilgrim, I am your third promise."

L. P. "And what did you promise?"

O. Answers from catechism.

M. C. "My child, these are to be your body guard on the way to the Holy City, Never forget them, nor allow them to be separated

from you. With them at your side, no harm can touch you, for their swords have been bathed in heaven. Many a battle must be fought before you reach the gates of pearls; but fear not, "Fight the good fight of Faith, lay hold on eternal Life." (To C.) summon hither the Creed, the Ten Commandments, Liturgy, Duty to God and Duty to Man."

Cat. goes out and returns with the following; Creed,—tall girl, dark, wears flowing robe of red—the blood of the Saints. Each Commandment is represented by a little girl, fair, hair flowing over shoulders, white dress, Roman Numeral of violet worn over breast. Liturgy carries the Book of Common Prayer. All genuflect to M. C. Ten Commandments stand in line at back of stage. Creed takes her position at L near L. P.. Liturgy at R of L. P., Duty to God and Duty to Man, dressed in white, stand at either side of Creed.

L. P. (To Creed) "Who are you?"

Creed. "The confession of the Faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

L. P. "What is that confession, and what is that Faith?"

Creed. Recites the Apostles' Creed.

M. C. "My Child, can you recall what you have just heard?"

L. P. "Holy Mother, I will try." Recites the answer to the question—"What dost thou chiefly learn, etc."

M. C. "Commandments of the Law, come forward and tell Little Pilgrim what the Father

has declared concerning the conduct of a soul that would be saved."

Each commandment comes from rear of stage to the side of M. C., facing L. P., recites, then goes on behind the Three Promises, who are standing on guard at R of L. P., to take her place next to the Commandment who stands last in order. As each commandment takes her place at bottom of row the line moves up a step, in order to preserve an unbroken order. Much care is needed to make this effective.

M. C. "Duty to God and Duty to Man, come forward and teach Little Pilgrim what she has learned by these commandments." They approach. Each should have a large processional cross, over which is hung a shield bearing the title "Duty to God" for the one, and "Duty to Man" for the other.

D. T. G. & D. T. M., "All Hail, Little Pilgrim."

L. P. "Who are you?"

D. T. G. & D. T. M. "We represent the Two Great Commandments of the Law, Duty towards God and Duty towards Man."

L. P. "What is that duty towards God?"

D. T. G. "Duty towards God is to believe in Him, etc."

L. P. "What is duty towards man?"

D. T. M. "To love him as myself, etc"

M. C. "Now, my child, you know your Baptismal Promises, the Confession of the Faith, and the Commandments of the Law, but this is not all that you should know to your soul's

health,--- Holy Baptism, what means of grace must Little Pilgrim have before she can win to the Holy City ?”

H. B. “Prayer.”

M. C. “What is that prayer ?”

H. B. “The Lord’s Prayer ”

M. C. “Let Liturgy come forward and teach Little Pilgrim the best of all prayers.”

Lit. (Approaches L. P.) “Little Pilgrim, when the disciples of our dear Lord asked Him to teach them how to pray, He gave them this prayer, which Holy Mother Church prizes above all other prayers. As I repeat it, you will notice that every petition is offered in the plural number and this is the spirit of common prayer. (Repeats the Lord’s Prayer.) As she does so, M. C. rises and lifts up her hands. All kneel about M. C., who remains standing. Tableau. Choir sing very softly,—

“We love the place, O God,  
Wherein Thine honor dwells,”

(To end of Hymn.)

CURTAIN.

Recitation By Ten Girls in White.

THE CHURCH’S STORY.

1st Girl      I love the Church’s story,  
Her name is everywhere;  
Her life is one of Glory,  
Full radiant and fair.

- 2nd Girl      From Pentecostal Fires  
                  She sprang forth into life,  
                  Her heaven-wooing spires  
                  Keep watch o'er sin and strife.
- 3rd Girl      The Old World groped in error  
                  Long years until she came,  
                  And shook the frowning Terror  
                  With the unconquerable Name.
- 4th Girl      By Her the Spell was broken  
                  That held the East in thrall,  
                  The West received the Token—  
                  THE CROSS SHALL CONQUER  
                  ALL.
- 5th Girl      Her seamless robe is riven  
                  By hands that have opprest,  
                  Yet God's decree hath given  
                  The Faith thus manifest.
- 6th Girl      And still She fronts the morning  
                  With glory on Her face,  
                  And heaven's light adorning  
                  Her sacramental grace.
- 7th Girl      Behold Her tender yearning,  
                  Her passion of desire,  
                  The Christ-love in Her burning .  
                  With God's consuming fire.
- 8th Girl      Her hands the bread is breaking  
                  Which Christ came down to give,  
                  With love Her voice is shaking:—  
                  "O take, and eat, and live."

9th Girl     The cup He blessed She offers,—  
                  O hear this sweet refrain:—  
                  “Our Christ, Redeemer proffers  
                  Himself for sinners slain.”

10th Girl   Uphold Her name with honour,  
                  Approach Her gates with praise;  
                  For God hath brought upon Her  
                  The gift of endless days.

## ACT II.

### SCENE I.

Catechism is seated at centre of stage. L.  
 P. at his feet. Three Promises as before.

Cat. “Little Pilgrim, Mother Church has placed you in my care for further instructions in your duties as a member of Christ, the Child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven By Holy Baptism you were brought to Mother Church, who gave to you the Three soldiers of the Cross. You have heard the Creed, the Lord’s prayer and the Ten Commandments. At this very moment you are supported and protected by your Baptismal Vows. It remains for you to be prepared for Holy Eucharist. Three Soldiers of the Cross, what must Little Pilgrim do before she can meet Holy Eucharist?”

Three Promises. “She must be confirmed”.

• Cat. “Soldiers of the Cross, summon hither Apostolic Confirmation.” (They retire and return with A. C. in Bishop’s robes. Soldiers resume former position. Apostolic Confirmation stands before L. P., who rises to meet A. C. Speaks. “Little Pilgrim, I am Apostolic Confirmation.”

L. P. "Why are you called Apostolic?"

A. C. "Because the Apostles confirmed with the Laying on of Hands."

L. P. "How am I to know that what you tell me is true?"

A. C. "The Bible says so. In the Acts of the Apostles we read that St Peter and St John went down to Samaria and confirmed those whom the deacon St. Philip had already baptized. We also read that St Paul did the same at Ephesus after he had baptized twelve men. There are many more places in the Bible where it is plain that confirmation is Apostolic."

L. P. "I am satisfied that what you tell me is true; but why must I be confirmed before meeting Holy Eucharist?"

A. C. "Because I have a special gift of the Holy Ghost to make you strong and seal your Baptism; this must first be done before you can meet Holy Eucharist."

L. P. "Then I will be confirmed."

Kneels before A. C., whose hands are laid upon her head. Tableau. Choir sing:—

"My God, accept my heart this day,  
And make it always Thine"

To end of Hymn.

Recitations By Five Girls In White.

THE WAY OF THE MASTER.

First Girl;

He stands where lovely lillies kiss His feet,  
And breath of morning steals across the hills  
With Matin-song of cool, thin-threading rills,  
The coo of doves and whir of swallows fleet.

The blue of sky, and sunshine join to meet  
 Each trembling, bending lily that distills  
 A fragrance all the Galilean summer fills,—  
 Anointing His bowed head with unction sweet.  
 He hears the Aves of the summer's song,  
 He feels the rapture of the lilies' kiss,  
 He knows that blue of sky, and sunshine throng  
 Together just for Him their every bliss;  
 And yet, there comes upon His reverie  
 The vision of His cross and Calvary.

Second Girl:

Among the Olives in Gethsemane  
 The moonlight steals and fitful shadows play,  
 The grey leaves tremble and the branches sway  
 Above Him in the awful mystery  
 Of bitter grief and nameless agony;  
 With Him the sting of death has had its way,  
 Has pierced and pained Him till He knelt to say,  
 "Father, this bitter cup remove from me "  
 And now He stands to meet the Traitor's kiss,  
 He goes to feel the scourge, the sneers, the scorn,  
 To wear the purple robe and crown of thorn,  
 To bear the cross,--- O depth of love in this,—  
 The while there plays upon His pallid face  
 A light that dawns forever on His race.

#### THE MASTER AND DISCIPLE.

3rd Girl:     What can I do to-day,  
                   Master, for Thee ?  
                   Hark, for I hear Him say:  
                   "Love pleaseth Me "

4th Girl:     Out in the crowded street  
                   Some one is calling,  
                   Down there with bleeding feet  
                   Some one is falling.

- 3rd Girl:     Here on a bed of pain  
                  All the night through,  
                  Some one has called in vain,—  
                  Calls he for you ?
- 4th Girl:     There where the daylight dies,  
                  Shadows o'er all,  
                  One, broken-hearted, cries,  
                  See, the tears fall
- 3rd Girl:     Love bids thee go to each,  
                  Count not the loss,  
                  If thou the crown wouldst reach,---  
                  Take up the Cross
- 4th Girl:     This thou canst do for Me,  
                  This be the test,---  
                  Who strives a friend to be,  
                  Pleaseth me best.

### THE SONG OF LITTLE PILGRIM.

- 5th Girl: I dare to follow o'er the hills,  
                  I laugh the shadow in the face,  
                  My soul is free, is free, and wills,  
                  To die, or conquer in the race  
                  They tell me, voices of the night,  
                  That I am on a fruitless quest,  
                  Shat I but seek a wandering light,  
                  Twere better here to cease and rest  
                  From hill to hill I follow on,  
                  They know not what I hear and see;  
                  The night is breaking, and the dawn  
                  Lifts up from out the East to me.

## SCENE II

Mother Church is seated as before L. P. at her feet Holy Eucharist, robed as a priest, bearing a silver cup to represent chalice, stands at R of M C, bearing her baptismal shell. Three Promises as before, near L. P. The Three graces stand at rear of stage.

M C "My child, you are now ready for the great moment in the life of a human soul,--- you are to receive Holy Eucharist But you must understand this central feature of christian worship. (To H E.) Why was the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ordained?"

H. E. Answers from catechism

M C (To Faith) "What is the outward part or sign of the Lord's Supper?"

F. Answers from catechism.

M C. (To Faith) "What is the inward part, or thing signified?"

F. Answers from catechism.

M. C. (To Hope) "What are the benefits whereof we are partakers thereby?"

H. Answers from catechism.

M C (To Charity) "What is required of them who come to the Lord's Supper?"

F. Answers from Catechism.

M. C. (To L P) "My child, you have now heard about this great Mystery The time is at hand for you to meet Holy Eucharist. Never forsake him, for he will be your strength. His must be the last hand to touch yours as you enter through the gates of pearl into the Holy

City Rise, Little Pilgrim, and meet Holy Eucharist."

L P. stands to meet H. E., who approaches with the chalice As they meet, L P. kneels At that moment all kneel, save H. E., who lifts the chalice above the heads of all

Tableau. Choir sing:

"Bread of Heaven, on Thee we feed,  
For Thy Flesh is meat indeed"

(To end of Hymn )

CURTAIN.

### SCENE III.

TABLEAU. NEARING THE HOLY CITY

Actors grouped in descending scale----Mother Church highest

Mother Church

Priest Bishop Deacon

D. T. G., D. T. M., Creed, L Pilgrim, Soldiers  
Baptism

Five Commandments

Five Commandments

Nine  
Recitatitns

Liturgy

Three Graces  
Six Recitations

Prevening Grace (kneeling)

During this Tableau choir sing:---

either "Hark, hark my soul, Angelic songs are swelling"

or "Through the right of doubt and sorrow"

## Epilogue By The Angel of Dreams.

Peace!

Go back to the place of your service,  
Go back to the burden and care,  
Take the sword and the shield of your warfare,  
Made strong by the power of prayer.

Peace!

Be patient, be strong, be courageous,  
For God needs your witness and worth,  
As His will is accomplished in Heaven,  
Be obedient, thou, upon earth

Peace!

Be of comfort, be cheerful and radiant,  
The City's just over the hill,  
Look up; See how the morning awaketh,  
Be watchful, be trustful, be still

Peace!

For He comes to His tryst on the hillside,  
Watch,---'tis the Master's behest,  
For He saith, Come to Me all ye weary,  
And lo, I will give to you rest."





